

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 A61F13/56 B29C65/08 B23K20/10

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A61F B29C B23K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 531 666 A (UNI CHARM CORP) 17 March 1993 (1993-03-17) column 7, line 27-52; figures 7A,7B ---	1,3,4, 8-10, 14-19, 21-24
X	US 6 309 487 B1 (THARPE JOHN M ET AL) 30 October 2001 (2001-10-30) figure 6A ---	1,21
X	US 5 545 275 A (THARPE JOHN M ET AL) 13 August 1996 (1996-08-13) column 5, line 4-63; figure 6A ---	1,21
X	US 5 788 797 A (THARPE JOHN M ET AL) 4 August 1998 (1998-08-04) figure 6A --- -/--	1,21



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

*** Special categories of cited documents:**

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
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- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
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Date of the actual completion of the international search

27 January 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

03/02/2004

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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A	US 4 823 783 A (WILLHITE JR WILLIAM ET AL) 25 April 1989 (1989-04-25) figure 3 ---	1-26
A	WO 01 70159 A (SCA HYGIENE PROD AB) 27 September 2001 (2001-09-27) figures 10,13-15 -----	1-26

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